

## A NOTE ON MALACHIIDAE

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Dr. M. Y. Marshall's STUDIES IN THE MALACHIIDAE II, *Entomologica Americana*, vol. 28, no. 4, October 1948 (Pub. June 6, 1949), corrects several misapplications of generic and specific names and provides a long needed key to the twelve genera recognized in our fauna as well as a key to our species of *Anthocomus* in which are now placed the species formerly listed under *Malachius* with the single exception of the introduced european species, *M. aeneus* (L). Besides changes in concepts of generic values and names, four new specific names are proposed.

We need a better appraisal of the role played by Malachiidae in the balance of kinds in local ecology but details must come from field observers and from those who rear larvae. Knowlton records voracious destruction of aphids by species of *Collops* and predatism by various Malachiid larvae is generally understood but the report of serious injury to the yield of wheat in Europe by *Malachius aeneus* should be reappraised in our own wheat belt. This neglected 80-odd year old statement by Frauenfeld 1866 (*Vehr. k. k. zoolog.-bot. Gesellsch. Wein* vol. 16, p. 644) mentions beetles feeding upon anthers and pistils of the wheat at times of pollination thus preventing growth of the grains just as injury to corn silk by feeding Chrysomelids or jap beetles prevents growth of kernals on the ears of maiz. The rapid advance of *M. aeneus* through the wheat belt from New England almost to the Pacific Coast should permit study of its ecological role and appraisal of its probable effect upon our interests.

## NEWS

Local papers carried a story a few weeks ago telling of a London Coleopterist who was jailed for the theft of 160 beetles from the British Museum (Natural History). This person is not a subscriber to the Bulletin. However, his address is listed in the last number of the Bulletin for 1948, and several of his papers have been listed in the current literature section in past issues. Apparently his enthusiasm exceeded his moral sense. His landlady stated, as an example of this great love for beetles, that though he has been married only a few months, he used to sit up half the night studying his collection. Perhaps some of our subscribers' wives are likewise neglected!

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